

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/066 W

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R 302245Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6094

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJ: SOME RESULTS OF LATEST GOP PRESS MOVES

REF: LIMA 5954

1. AS DEADLINE DREW NEAR FOR TRANSFER OF NATIONAL CIRCULATION DAILIES, GOP'S RECENT DECREES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS GAVE INDICATION NOT ONLY OF A CHANGE TO APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT LESS RADICAL PRESS LEADERSHIP AS REPORTED IN REFTEL BUT ALSO TO A POSSIBLE DIMINUTION OF ROLE OF GOP'S CENTRAL INFORMATION OFFICE (OIC) HEADED BY GENERAL EDUARDO SEGURA. DURING FIRST YEAR OF EXPROPRIATED PRESS OCI ADMINISTERED GOP'S OFFICIAL GAZETTE, EL PERUANO, AND GOP'S NEWSPAPER, LA CRONICA. BEGINNING JULY 27 BOTH PUBLICATIONS ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY. IT HAS BEEN WIDELY RUMORED FOR MANY MONTHS THAT GOP HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH OCI AND THAT SEGURA WOULD BE REPLACED. WHILE SEGURA HAS THUS FAR RETAINED HIS POSITION, THE LOSS OF ELPERUANO AND LA CRONICA CERTAINLY WEAKENS, IF NOT RUINS, HIS IMAGE AS PERU'S "INFORMATION CZAR" AND COULD CONCEIVABLY SIGNAL HIS EVENTUAL DEPARTURE FROM THE POST. (ONE RUMOR HAS SEGURA REPLACING GENERAL MENESES AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION - IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER - NO DEMOTION YET REMOVAL FROM IMPORTANT INFORMATION FIELD.)

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2. BESIDES ADDING EL PERUANO AND LA CRONICA TO ITS CONTROL,

THE PRESIDENCY HAS GAINED BY THE NAMING OF GILBERTO ESCUDERO TO THE IMPORTANT LA PRENSA DIRECTORSHIP. ESCUDERO IS STRONG VELASCO SUPPORTER WHO INVARIABLY HEADS THE COMMITTEES IN CHARGE OF TURNING OUT LARGE CROWDS FOR VELASCO'S PUBLIC APPEARANCES. ESCUDERO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEWSMEN (ANP) AND IS COLLABORATING WITH PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY ZIMMERMANN IN PROJECT TO UNIFY JOURNALISTS UNDER A NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, A PROJECT WHICH HAS BLESSING OF VELASCO. APPOINTMENT OF VELASCO'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, LUIS GONZALEZ POSADA, AS DIRECTOR OF LA CRONICA IS ANOTHER GAIN FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY. APPOINTMENT OF LEOPLODO CHIAPPO TO EXPRESO SHOULD LIKEWISE PLEASE VELASCO, AS SHOULD DEPOSING OF ULTIMA HORA'S ISMAEL FRIAS, WHOM VELASCO AND ZIMMERMANN HAVE KEPT UNDER ATTACK IN RECENT WEEKS. IN SUM, NOT ONLY OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY'S ACQUIRING OF LA CRONICA AND EL PERUANO BUT ALSO NAMING OF NEW DIRECTORS SHOULD STRENGTHEN VELASCO'S POSITION IN CONTROLLING PRESS.

3. ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SUPREME DECREE 006-75-TR OF JULY 22 ASSIGNS EDITORIAL AND POLICY CONTROL OF EACH "SECTORIZED" NEWSPAPER TO DIRECTOR NAMED BY GOP. IN ORDER TO CONTROL PRESS POLICY AND EDITORIALS GOP NOW NEED DEAL WITH ONLY ONE PERSON - THE DIRECTOR. IN FIRST YEAR PRESUMABLY THE THREE PERSONS ASSIGNED EACH GOVERNING COMMITTEE ALSO FIGURED IN POLICY. ALSO INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGNED EDITORIALS. GOP SOURCE TOLD EMPFF THAT HENCEFORTH DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF ALL ARTICLES INCLUDING THOSE OF COLUMNISTS. NEW ARRANGEMENT SHOULD MAKE CONTROL EASIER FOR GOP.

4. ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO LATEST DECREES EACH "SECTORIZED" NEWSPAPER HAS A GENERAL BOARD COMPRISED OF 30 SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES AND AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMPRISED OF 7 SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES, 3 LABOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR, THE ROLE OF THE SECTORS IN THE RUNNING OF THE NEWSPAPERS IS UNCLEAR. THE KEY FIGURE WILL CLEARLY BE THE GOP-APPOINTED DIRECTOR, WHO IN TURN IS LIKELY TO BE INCREASINGLY CONTROLLED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, POLICIES, NEWSPAPERS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA06077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750263-1040
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975079/aaaaahob.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LIMA 5954
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME RESULTS OF LATEST GOP PRESS MOVES
TAGS: PINT, EIND, PE, (SEGURA, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006